

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION**  
**Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** Deputy Commissioner for Transformation and Innovation Team

**POLICY TOPIC:** Proposed revisions to SBE Rule 2000: School Quality Standards

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

1. 3 V.S.A. §832(b) (Administrative Procedure)
2. 16 V.S.A. §165 (Standards of quality for public schools; equal educational opportunities)
3. 16 V.S.A. §941 (S. 130 of 2013 – Flexible Pathways legislation)
4. SBE Manual of Rules and Practices Rule 2000

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

**Goal Two** - Learning Expectations: Standards and expectations define the knowledge and skills essential for all PreK-12 learners to be successful in the 21st century.

**Strategy 5:** Review and update Vermont School Quality Standards and the graduation requirements included therein, to reflect college and career-readiness standards for the 21st century, including proficiency-based promotion and graduation, and the integration of early college and technical learning opportunities.

**PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION:**

Review proposed revisions to SBE Rule 2000 School Quality Standards following completion of the public comment period

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In August 2012, the State Board endorsed a plan for the review, redesign and rewrite of State Board Rule 2000 School Quality Standards (SQS) to Education Quality Standards (EQS). This work is pursuant to the Board's Opportunity to Learn Policy Commission Report published in 2009, as well as the current State Board of Education Strategic Plan Goals.

The Board created an Education Quality Standards Commission to carry out the initial phase of this review, which met from November 2012 through June 2013 in order to formulate policy language recommendations for the Board by June 2013. Throughout this initial phase, input from stakeholders has been collected and documented by the Agency. Partners in the effort, such as other state agencies, education stakeholder

organizations, higher education educator preparation programs, parents, legislators and agency staff, have reviewed this document and provided feedback to the Agency, the Commission and the Board, and will continue to be consulted. For more information about the EQS Commission, go to:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/eqs.html>.

Following the Board's June 25, 2013 vote to initiate rulemaking, public comments were received by the Agency via digital and print means, ending October 28.

Three public hearings were held across the state:

- October 8, 6 p.m., Brattleboro Union High School
- October 17, 4 p.m., Lake Region Union High School, Orleans
- October 21, 4 p.m., Champlain Valley Union High School, Hinesburg

In addition, two final review sessions were held with Agency staff on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Board's review of the public comment and recommendations from the Agency of the actions taken on the public comment is currently taking place. The Board is anticipated to vote in December 2013 to approve the final recommendations and to file them with the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) and the Secretary of State's Office for approval in January 2014.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:**

Costs for the rulemaking process are part of the normal course of business for the staff of the Agency.

**STAFF AVAILABLE:** John Fischer, Deputy Commissioner; Jill Remick, Policy Project Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Annotated Version of Education Quality Standards Draft Rule 2000
2. Compilation of All Public Comments Received
3. Summary of Public Comments Received
4. Proposed language in Response to Public Comments